

THE GREAT WENCHOSTER BIBLE

John 4: 5-42

5. Then cometh Jesus to a city of Samaria, which is called Sychar just to confuse the readers who cannot understand, near to the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. And He knoweth this for there was a sign planted in the earth which read thus: Get off my land.
6. Now Jacob's well was there, though technically it was Joseph's well, for Jacob had given it to him as has just been described. Are you still with me? Good. Jesus therefore, being super-wearied with His journey, sat thus on the well and did take great care not to fall in: and it was about the sixth hour and the sun was high for it was noontide. And that is the origin of the phrase High Noon.
7. There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water. She was a local and kneweth of the well and did fill her water jars there every day so that she might have something to drink and wash with. Jesus did give eye unto her and her manner of dress and saith, Oi! Give me to drink. And make it a large one.
8. (For his disciples were gone away unto the city to buy meat and vegetables and some sweetmeats for dessert and a flagon or two of wine for to wash down the meat.)
9. Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans, not leastwise in the open.
10. Jesus answered and said unto her, It is Lent and if thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.
11. The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast spoken in strange Johannine metaphors which I do not fully understand. In fact, I don't know anyone who does. Thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep, and the bucket hast an hole it. From whence then hast thou that living water? And dost thou by that phrase mean sparkling water that fizzeth? Like Pe'el Grino.
12. Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle, and hundreds of residents of this city over the many years, and none of us have ever seen effervescence in its depths?
13. Jesus shifteth himself for the stone of the wall of the well were very hard and uncomfortable, and answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again and shall needs return to fetch more, yea even twice daily:
14. But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him or her shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him or her shall be in him or her a well of water springing up into everlasting life. I'm not sure why I said all that, but it sounds like a good idea for an hymnal. 1974, anno domini - whatsoever that means.
15. The woman saith unto Him, Sir, thou clearly hast a bucket with no hole. Give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw morn or eve.
16. Jesus saith unto her, Go, call thy husband, and come hither.
17. The woman answered, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband:
18. For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly.
19. The woman saith, I know not where he is. And Jesus did sigh and declare, He is in the Inn. And the woman did marvel and saith unto Him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet. And

wishing to deflect His thinking from her partner's fondness for the rough red wine of the district did pose Him a question.

20. Rabbi, our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship. Which is it?
21. And Jesus, remembering His vision atop the pinnacle of the temple replied unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, after Lent, and fifty days after something or other, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.
22. Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. And the woman did blanch at this definitive answer but held her peace.
23. And Jesus continued, But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.
24. And warming to his theme He declared, God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. Spooky, huh?
25. The woman saith unto Him, Thou speakest strangely, but I know that Messiah cometh, which is called Christ - that's Greek, by the way: when he is come, he will tell us all things, even how to fix a hole in a bucket.
26. Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am He. Thou needest straw, and a knife. And fix it, dear Samaritan, fix it.
27. And upon this came His disciples, and marvelled that He talked with the woman: yet no man said, What seekest thou? or, Why talkest thou with her? or, "Who is she? or, How much?
28. The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men,
29. Come, bring some straw to fix the bucket at the well, and a knife to cut the straw, and see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?
30. Then they went out of the city, and came unto Him and did find him with His disciples, not sitting upon the wall of the well but on a cushion.
31. In the mean while his disciples prayed Him, saying, Master, we have bought meats and pastries and small boiled fowl. Take, eat, in remembrance of our journeying.
32. But He said unto them, I have meat to eat that ye know not of.
33. Therefore the disciples were miffed, mightily, and did ask one to another, Hath any man brought Him ought to eat, or did that woman offer Him sweetmeats from her bosom?
34. Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work, verily.
35. Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? And the disciples did look at each other for there were six months to go before the crops would be ripe for gathering. But Jesus continued, Behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. And the disciples did gaze about the land yet saw they not a crop. But Peter remembered that this was Johannine.
36. Standing up Jesus looked at them and declareth, He that reapeth receiveth wages, even unto the going rate, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together. Capiche?
37. And herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth. One selleth and another buyeth. One cooketh and another eateth. And there's one about stable doors and a horse, but I forget how it goes.

38. Look to this truth, I sent you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labour: other men laboured, and ye are entered into their labours. And the disciples did dissemble, for they had not gathered another's crops nor taken food from another's table.
39. And many of the Samaritans standing around did marvel at the bucket which had been miraculously made whole, and they and others of that city believed on Him for the saying of the woman, which testified, Even though it be Lent, He told me all that ever I did.
40. So when the Samaritans were come unto Him, they besought Him that he would tarry with them: and He abode there two days, eating of their food and drinking their wine. And much water was carried from the well unto the house, as His signs did not end at Cana.
41. And many more believed because of His own word;
42. And said unto the woman, Now we believe, not because of thy saying, for thou art a woman living in sin with a man who imbibes much liquor. Nay, it is because we have heard Him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ even though we speaketh not Greek nor understandeth it, that this is the Saviour of the world. Do you think we'll get a mention in a book?